

INSIDE the *Grounds*

SPRING 2009

A Magazine of the Indiana State Fairgrounds



NEW PROGRAMS
are SPROUTING at the



EXPLORE

•

EXPERIENCE

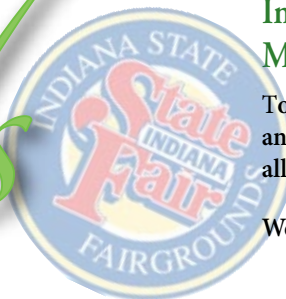
•

ENJOY

INSIDE the Grounds

Spring 2009

A Magazine of the Indiana State Fairgrounds



Indiana State Fair Commission Mission Statement:

To preserve and enhance the Fairgrounds and the annual State Fair for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana.

We Believe In:

- Agriculture as our foundation
- Operating in a safe and fiscally conscious manner
- Investing in our customers, our personnel, and our facilities
- Striving toward a more self-sufficient financial model
- Building family memories and traditions for future generations
- Responsible stewardship of this historic and treasured state institution
- Constant innovation and dynamic, relevant presentations

INSIDE

Indiana State Fair

4 Do you know your tomato history?



Education

6

New Programming on the Menu at the State's Largest Classroom



Kyle Hupfer
Chairman,
Indiana State Fair Commission

Mark Merkel
President,
Indiana State Fair Board

Gary Emsweller
Chairman,
Center for Agricultural Science & Heritage
Board of Trustees

Cynthia C. Hoye
Executive Director,
Indiana State Fair Commission

Inside the Grounds is published quarterly by the Indiana State Fairgrounds

Letters and comments should be sent to:

Angie Foreman
Editor-in-Chief, Inside the Grounds
Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317.927.7585 • Fax 317.927.7578
aforeman@indianastatefair.com
www.indianastatefair.com
www.thebarn.in.gov

Graphic Design:
Angie Foreman



Indiana County Fairs

10 A "Staycation" Destination



Hoosier Horse Fair

Fun for ALL ages

12



On the Cover: Mark Brammer, Education Specialist, teaches a group of students about the importance of a clean watershed during the State's Largest Classroom's Pathway to Water Quality program.

Letter from our Director

Spring Has Sprung!

Winter is over! Finally, we have most of the cold temperatures and snow behind us and we can look forward to a warm spring in Indiana! There was no better way to celebrate a change of seasons than to gather family and friends at the 51st Indiana Flower & Patio Show opening a few weeks ago. This is just one of many great consumer shows that have kept the staff busy.

From an all-time attendance high at our public ice skating season in the Pepsi Coliseum to the Murat Shrine Circus to the Naptown Roller Derby to the 2009 hhGregg WFMS Country Music Expo, the fairgrounds continues to

have the broadest choice of entertainment and family events in Central Indiana. We still have a number of great spring events on the calendar and we are also getting ready for the spring session of the State's Largest Classroom, which has been a huge hit with school kids and teachers since we opened it nearly two years ago.

Even with all of this activity, the staff is looking forward to the 2009 Indiana State Fair that will be spread over three weekends for the first time. With five additional days of programming and events, we have the opportunity to bring even more great family entertainment to the state, all at affordable prices.

We have more value-packed entertainment than ever before, including several free-ticket concerts, a "State Fair Value Book" of coupons good for concession items all around the fairgrounds, and midway discounts... there's something for every member of the family.

This year's State Fair has been dubbed the "Year of Tomatoes" presented by Red Gold, with fun, saucy, "tomatoey" programming throughout the Fair – it should be a lot of fun! I invite you to keep abreast of all the activities at your Indiana State Fairgrounds by logging onto indianastatefair.com. There you can find out about all the year-round activities and plans for the 2009 Indiana State Fair!

Cynthia C. Hoyer
Executive Director

Indiana State Fair Commission

By Allison Carter

Tomatoes... Yum. Whether they're fresh, sautéed, grilled, chopped into a spicy salsa, canned or in a ketchup packet, there's no denying the prevalence of this ruby-red food in Hoosier households and recipes. Available year round in fresh and preserved forms, this fruit has become an Indiana favorite. Interestingly enough, it's not indigenous to the Midwest and it hasn't always been popular in American dishes either. So how did this mysterious morsel wind up being one of the most popular delicacies in Hoosier kitchens?

The tomato is, in fact, native to South and Central America where more than 8 species continue to grow naturally. The Aztecs called it 'tomatl' and conquistador Hernando Cortez brought the seeds of this unusual plant back to Europe in 1519. They were planted but seen more as ornamental curiosities than edible fruits, except in the Mediterranean coasts of Spain and Italy. In northern Europe the French even referred to tomatoes as *pommes d'amour*, meaning 'love apples' believed

to have stimulating aphrodisiacal properties, but no qualities of a delicacy.

Several varieties of the tomato made the trip back across the Atlantic with settlers headed for the new world and were planted along the East Coast where they were used as garden décor rather than food. In fact, physicians actually warned against eating the ripened red berry until the end of the eighteenth century. They believed that its skins adhered to the stomach lining causing diseases like appendicitis and stomach cancer.

As legend has it, the clandestine

crop remained an underdog in the vegetable world until September 26, 1820 when Colonel Robert Gibbon Johnson of Salem, New Jersey vowed



once and for all to prove tomatoes were neither poisonous, nor unsafe for consumption. He risked his life on the steps of the Salem courthouse to devour a basket full of to-

matoes in front of more than 2,000 onlookers who were convinced he was committing public suicide. The local firehouse band even played a dirge to mourn his most eminent death.

While Colonel Johnson may have suffered a bit of a belly-ache, he survived the brave endeavor and the popularity of the tomato spread throughout North America and even into the hearts of Indiana Hoosiers, where it is now one of the most popular crops.



Did You Know?

Celebrating Tomatoes is a Hoosier Tradition!

Elwood, home to our Year of Tomatoes presenting sponsor, Red Gold, was chosen by the State of Indiana in 1937 to host the Tomato Festival due to their location

with tomato fields and canning factories. The first Tomato Queen was Miss Zola Mae Cook in July 1937. The festival was held annually until it was cancelled due to the beginning of World War II in 1940. Elwood tried to revive the Tomato Festival in 1948, but the attempt was not successful. The last Tomato Festival was held in conjunction with Elwood's Centennial in 1952.

1944 Tomato Festival Photo, Left to Right: Rascoe Fraser, Ruth Sanders, Jane Mahorney (Queen of Indiana Tomatoland for 1944), Governor Henry F. Schricker, Betty Spacey, E. C. Elliott



Photo courtesy of Purdue University Libraries Archives & Special Collections
Story courtesy of Elwood Chamber of Commerce: elwoodindiana.org

MORE DAYS MORE FUN!

The 2009 Indiana State Fair can be summarized in four words: MORE DAYS! MORE FUN! With an additional five days that extends the fair over three full weekends, the 17-day fair is designed to present every Hoosier family with a jam packed visit – complete with free entertainment from concerts to a demolition derby to an Indiana space exhibit! Nowhere else can you have such family fun for only \$8!

What's new for 2009? Here's a peek at what we have thus far – but there is more to come!

Lucas Oil Motorsports Weekend featuring the Indy Super Pull Tractor Pull

Purina Incredible Dog Challenge – Eastern Regional qualifier for the National Dog Challenge

Indiana Space Travels – partnership with the Indiana Space Grant Consortium to present and celebrate Indiana's contributions to the U.S. Space exploration

Hedrick's Racing Pigs – 4 shows a day!

Great Concerts at the Hoosier Lottery Grandstand

Year of Tomatoes presented by Red Gold – featuring 'saucy' tomato features all over the fairgrounds, including a Celebrity Tomato Toss and a Salsa Music Contest!

WFMS Free Stage with 17 days of
FREE ENTERTAINMENT

Demolition Derby and fireworks – **FREE!**

Clarian Healthy Lifestyles Pavilion – screenings all 17 days!

Peking Acrobats in the Riley Fun Park – 3 shows a day!

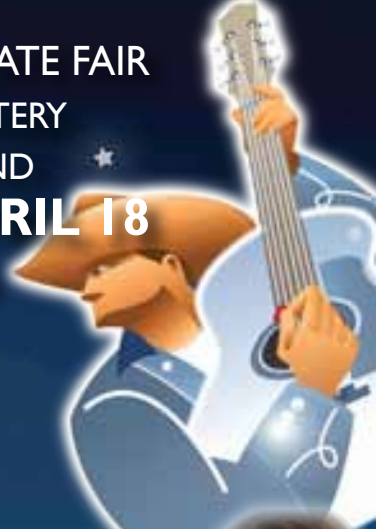
Timberwork's Lumberjack Show – Celebration Park, 4 shows a day!

Keep checking www.indianastatefair.com for more up-to-date information for all events. The 2009 Indiana State Fair runs August 7 – 23. **Remember, More Days! More Fun!**

2009 INDIANA STATE FAIR
HOOSIER LOTTERY
GRANDSTAND
ON SALE APRIL 18
10 am



KEITH URBAN with Jason Aldean
Saturday, August 15



MERCY ME with Jeremy Camp
presented by Shepherd Community Center
Wednesday, August 12



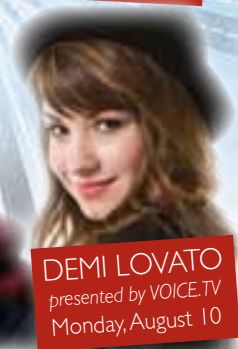
KELLY CLARKSON
Friday, August 14



INDIANA MUSICFEST Thursday, August 13
Featuring Jon McLaughlin, The Elms & The Why Store
FREE Concert with general admission to Fair



SANDI PATTY
with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday, August 11



DEMI LOVATO
presented by VOICE.TV
Monday, August 10

Tickets available at the Indiana State Fair booth at the WFMS Country Music Expo (April 18-19), Indiana State Fair Box Office at (317) 927-7601, all Ticketmaster locations, www.ticketmaster.com, charge-by-phone at 1-800-745-3000. For more information, call (317)927-7601 or visit indianastatefair.com



By Claire Wilcher

Ice Skating:

A Classroom Adventure

Makes the Grade!

During the week of February 9-13, the Education Dept. and the ice rink at the Pepsi Coliseum hosted formal school-group programming as a new initiative for the State's Largest Classroom to offer more year-round program options. Nearly 300 students from central Indiana attended, with the majority of the children experiencing ice skating for the first time.

One child asked, "Why are we ice skating?"

We replied, "To celebrate winter." So we spoke of winter, the seasons, and the coldest places of our very own planet. The tilt of the earth, the job of the sun, the location of the North and South Poles. The miles and miles of ice.

One child asked, "What is a glacier?"

We replied, "Let's make one together." So we got our hands wet, squeezed ice into water, discussed freezing and melting, broke bits into tiny icebergs. A glacier is on land, and while humans cannot live in an ice-covered world, animals certainly can.

One child asked, "How do the animals survive?"

We replied, "Roll up your sleeves." So we experimented

with "blubber", insulated our fingers, and dunked them into the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean. Voices squealed at the chilly temperature and examined blubber's purpose.

One child asked, "How do you keep ice inside a building?"

We replied, "We'll show you instead of tell you." So we trekked behind the scenes, discovered a Zamboni, and learned the magic underneath the rink. Excitement built; feet became itchy for a pair of skates.

One child asked, "What if I fall?"

We replied, "Get up and try again." So we wobbled, stumbled, and occasionally slipped and fell. More than once.

With giggles and sweaty faces, all scrambled to their feet again.

One child asked, "How do I skate?"

We replied, "Hold our hands." So we navigated the slippery surfaces, holding onto the wall, each other, or traffic cones for balance. Children were skating everywhere, both fearless and fearful—but all of them willing to try.



The program was great - very hands-on, very cool! The kids were pretty engaged with the blubber activity. We would love to come back!

- Ms. Dayna Howell, 5th Grade Teacher, Indian Creek Intermediate



An Indian Creek 5th Grader holds up a finger covered with "blubber". Above right, 5th Grader, Mikayla Baugh, strikes a pose on the ice.

Finally, WE asked, "Did you have a good time?"

Children replied, "YES!" So they untied their skates, found misplaced gloves, and amid hugs and farewell waves and running to the bus, we are once again bombarded with questions:

"When can we come back? Can I bring my mom and dad? Will you be here next time I come?"

Due to the overwhelming popularity of 'Ice Skating: A Classroom Adventure', look for new ice skating program dates this fall!



IN FULL BLOOM

*"Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself."*

- John Dewey

*"Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation,
but the only riches she can call her own."*

- Samuel Johnson

By Claire Wilcher

If one could combine the words of American philosopher John Dewey and those of author Samuel Johnson, the concepts behind the State's Largest Classroom at the Indiana State Fairgrounds would be well-articulated. Indeed, for the vision of the State's Largest Classroom is this: "a place that Hoosier schoolchildren and families will anxiously look forward to visiting, a place that teachers value for its educational relevancy, a place that other organizations will look to for best practices in informal education and, most importantly, a place where Indiana Agriculture is held aloft to serve as a unifying concept that links a mosaic of inter-disciplinary experiences."

That vision has been acted upon since the 2007-2008 school year began. On September 24, 2007, the State's Largest Classroom was implemented on the entire northeast side of the fairgrounds. For five weeks that fall, buses rolled onto the fairgrounds, full of students who were eager for hands-on, interactive, engaging experiences in agriculture. Positive feedback from the inaugural session demonstrated a need for this unique type of agricultural education. The hope that the Indiana State Fairgrounds would become a spearhead for such education became a reality.

A primary reason for the success of the State's Largest Classroom? Stu-

dents make personal connections between everyday living and the information they gather at the fairgrounds. Through programs like "Farm Animals", children work on a mock farm, gathering eggs and picking vegetables, continuously being reminded that our food comes from the earth and from caring for that earth. They visit the barn, where they discover and discuss the purposes of the animals and our respect for them, whether they end up on our plates or not. All of these aspects made the Indiana State Fairgrounds a place for Indiana teachers and their students to get back to basics and appreciate the roots of their very subsistence.

Fast forward to today, the spring of 2009, when nearly two years of continued work on the State's Largest Classroom has created an epicenter of Hoosier agricultural education. To date, the SLC has hosted approximately 8,200 elementary school students on-site. Factor in over 27,000 more students who have participated in the Outreach Pro-

grams, which include personal school visits that lead students in pioneer barn raisings and DNA extractions, and the result is an institution of unique learning experiences that extend from Terre Haute to Richmond, from Evansville to South Bend.

The school classroom is in a state of constant change, and so must the State's Largest Classroom be always willing to change and adapt to educational trends. Programming can stay current and creative, but the goal of the Classroom remains the same: just as Indiana agriculture enriches the state of Indiana, the State's Largest Classroom hopes to enrich the lives of children.



Education Specialist Mark Brammer, engages schoolchildren at the 2nd Annual Hoosier Heritage Days Festival last October.

State's Largest Classroom

- New Kids Menu -

By Claire Wilcher

Here at the State's Largest Classroom, we take pride in our traditions. Our two most-beloved and booked onsite programs, *Farm Animals* and *Farm to Pizza*, were immensely popular in 2008, as was our outreach-favorite, *Raising the Barn*. However, we're getting a little hungry for some new programming, and we're guessing you are too! So without further adieu, the Education Department dishes up a more extensive menu of programming! In addition to the fare you'll find on our website at www.thebarn.in.gov, you may choose from the following delicious additions... *Fee denoted is per class. State Academic Standards associated with each program can be found at www.thebarn.in.gov.*

Over
8,000
students
served!



On-site:

COMPOSTING.....\$50.00

There is more to composting than you might think. Come join us as we explore the science behind backyard compost bins, and build your own compost lab where you can take scientific readings and learn about the role that the carbon cycle plays in creating fertile Indiana soil.



UNDER YOUR FEET: INDIANA FOSSILS.....\$50.00

Come participate in a fossil dig right here at the fairgrounds as we unearth clues to Indiana's ancient past. Uncover, catalogue, prepare and identify some of the different fossils that have been found throughout Indiana.



ON THE FARM WITH CHARLOTTE AND WILBUR.....\$50.00

Are you reading E.B. White's children's classic *Charlotte's Web* aloud in your classroom? Do your students know the story, but have never seen a farm? Whether they are familiar with the book or are just being introduced to it, this program is a distinctive blend of real farm life and the magical tale of friendship. Students will be face-to-face with live animals, work on the farm, and peek inside the world of Charlotte and Wilbur through excerpts from the book. Who knows, the children may find Charlotte herself!

Outreach:

MRS. GOODSOIL: "LET'S PLANT A SEED!"\$50.00

What do plants need to grow? What are the parts of a plant? What does it mean to have a green thumb? Answer these questions and more with the help of everyone's favorite kooky gardener, Mrs. Goodsoil! (Two separate offerings: Pre K & K program, and Grades 1 & 2 program.).

Want to learn more about
Mrs. Goodsoil? See the
Q&A interview, next page!



On Special!

By Angie Foreman and Claire Wilcher

Mrs. Goodsoil: "Let's Plant a Seed!"

Q So, Mrs. Goodsoil, you will travel from school to school as part of the Education Department's latest outreach program. Please tell me, what will students learn from you?

Mrs. Goodsoil: The students and I will go adventuring together with a program titled "Let's Plant a Seed!" We will discover the fascinating world of plants: what they are, what they need to grow, and how we can grow them ourselves!

Q Will students have the opportunity to participate in actual planting activities?

Mrs. Goodsoil: Of course, my dear! What's the fun of learning if you can't get your hands on things? Each student will be cultivating his or her own green thumb by participating in a special planting project that I like to call the "Gardening Glove." You have to see it to believe it!

Q I understand you will read a few children's nature or gardening books to students as well. What is your favorite children's book to read and why?

Mrs. Goodsoil: Oh yes, I LOVE to read with children. I think any kind of good learning can be encouraged through books. Of course, my favorite children's books are about plants! At the moment, I can't get enough of *The Tiny Seed*, by Eric Carle. The artwork is so beautiful and the story is simple, yet astounding.

Q Mrs. Goodsoil, would you say people are simply born with a "green thumb" or is gardening something one can learn and nurture?

Mrs. Goodsoil: Oh my stars, anyone can be a gardener! One must simply love the earth and have a caring soul to do so. So easy!



Did You Know?

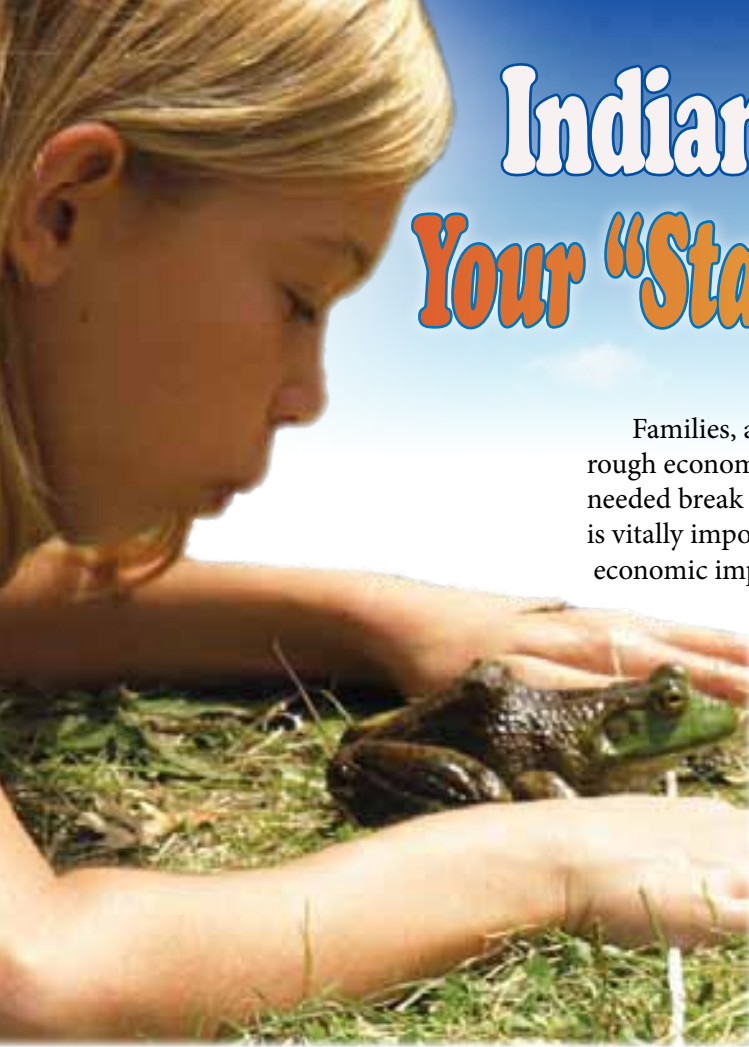
If you are a teacher interested in bringing Mrs. Goodsoil to YOUR pre-school, kindergarten, or early elementary classroom, simply:

★ Log-on to:
www.thebarn.in.gov
and click 'Educational Programming'!

★ Each program costs \$50.00 and lasts approximately 1 hour per class.

Indiana County Fairs

Your "Staycation" Destination



By Dr. Jim Weisman

Summer is ALWAYS fair season as families across Indiana gather at their local fairgrounds to celebrate the best in agriculture, entertainment and exhibits. The 2008 county fairs certainly had extraordinary events, filled with a wide diversity of activities and expectations. With the often bleak economic outlook heard in the news this past summer, there might have been a "caution sign" ahead for the Indiana county fairs. From the fair industry itself, many fairs were working with the changing dynamics of the entertainment and amusement ride industry as well.

While many scenarios brought county fair leaders to look closer at their programming and contractual commitments, they had the foresight to examine all aspects of their fair's programming that is essential to success.

Families, although hit with the rough economy, still needed to find the needed break and togetherness which is vitally important in our lives. The economic impact on Indiana families was dictating that more families stay at home and find ways to enjoy family activities in their hometowns or nearby communities. The county fair soon became a great oasis for this close-to-home, family-fun pilgrimage! A new word may well make it into Webster's

Dictionary – the "Staycation".

A surprising thing happened on the way to our Indiana county fairs. The entrance gates, parking lots and midways were marked by longer lines, much enthusiasm and generally an increase in attendance. The "caution signs" of earlier were now being replaced with signs reading "heavy traffic ahead!" As our strong county fair foundation has illustrated many times, hundreds of volunteers stepped up and met the challenge of the increased number of fair-goers.

With headlines still showing a weak economy, the Indiana county fairs continue to be stronger than ever! All signs indicate that the 2009 county fair season will be even stronger! Fair participants will find the time, energy and funds to exhibit more at their fair. The exhibit buildings, livestock barns and exhibition arenas will be all a bustle with

strong numbers of 4-H and open class exhibits. The fair experience will prove to be even more enhanced by all of the projects which are the culmination of thousands of hours of hard work and education by these 4-H'ers and open class exhibitors. The true mission of bringing agricultural and urban sciences education to the fair attendees will always be met.

The 92 Indiana county fairs are again to be represented at the 2009 Great Indiana State Fair. This progression from the county fair to the Indiana State Fair is truly one of the most impactful arenas in our industry. This time honored tradition is strong and has never looked more promising. So we all will again experience the "Staycation", with families staying close to home, continually creating memories that can only occur at a fair.



Davless County Fair
Elnora, Indiana

What 2009 will bring is still to be determined, but reflecting on 2008 provides a great incentive to continue to bring to the people of Indiana the highest quality of fairs our attendees have yet to see. Our county fair leadership continues to meet the challenge and, for this, Indiana is fortunate.



Contributing Writer, Dr. Jim Weisman, is the President of the INAFPE (Indiana Association of Fairs, Festivals, and Events). For more information about the INAFPE, please visit: indianafairsandfestivals.org



Lake County Fair, Crown Point, Indiana

And the Award goes to the...

By Andy Klotz

GREAT INDIANA STATE FAIR

The Indiana State Fair is widely regarded as one of the top state fairs in North America. Year after year, visitors from around the state and around the country comment on the fair's great exhibits, first-class entertainment, outstanding customer service, cleanliness, charm and ambiance.

Of course, anyone can say they have a great event. But the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) continues to confirm that the Indiana State Fair is truly a great state fair by virtue of the awards presented each year.

In 2008, the Great Indiana State Fair received the following IAFE awards for fairs with attendance ranging from 500,001 to 1,000,000 visitors:

- Special or specific agricultural educational event, exhibit, or program for the fairgoing public : Year of Trees
- Non-fair agricultural event or program: State's Largest Classroom

- Printed material developed and produced by the fair to promote/showcase agricultural program(s): *Inside the Grounds* magazine, Summer Issue
- Agriculture photo series: ISF Queen competing in Celebrity Milking
- Outstanding Poster
- Outstanding Printed Promotional Material - Multipage Publication: Fun Guide
- Advertising Specialties/Merchandise/Souvenirs
- Outstanding Television
- Outstanding Newsletter (external) - E-mail/ Web
- Outstanding Web site

The IAFE wasn't the only organization to recognize the Indiana State Fair for its outstanding work in 2008. The Indiana chapter of the Public Relations Society of America honored Hoosier professionals in the fields of public relations, marketing and communications with the Pinnacle Awards, Indiana's highest recognition for the public relations profession.

The chapter awarded the State Fair a Pinnacle Award for its Media Relations program centering on the transition to

The Indiana State Fair's Pat Berger (4th from left) and Margaret Davidson (2nd from right) lead a roundtable discussion at the IAFE Convention in Las Vegas.



Slip on your Boots... ...and Come on Down!

By Andy Klotz

Just as Kentuckians have the first Saturday in May circled on their calendars each year, Hoosier horse lovers look forward to the first weekend in April. That's when the Hoosier Horse Fair & Expo brings together everything equine at the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the largest all-breed state exhibition in the country.

When it started out in 1979, the Hoosier Horse Fair & Expo was a two-day event that attracted 5,000 horse owners to the Fairgrounds' East and South Pavilions. Now in its 31st year, the three-day extravaganza produced by the Indiana Horse Council takes up the entire fairgrounds! This year's event, April 3 – 5, should once again attract 35,000 visitors seeking to get up close to these beautiful creatures or to receive expert advice from world-renowned clinicians and trainers.

"This event is all about educating people about horses and the horse industry," said Danielle Tolan, director of operations for the Indiana Horse Council. "It's a great opportunity for horse lovers to interact with all kinds of horses, and for horse owners to get expert advice on caring for their animals."

One of the highlights of this year's show is the return of the WALLS Hoosier Ranch Rodeo, which is unlike contemporary rodeos in that it features events that simulate everyday chores for

cowboys on a working ranch. This kind of rodeo is a team competition – ranch vs. ranch – and includes events like wild cow milking, team branding, Bronc riding and stray gathering.

For horse

owners, it doesn't get any better than picking the brains of some of the world's most noted horse authorities.

Some of this year's featured clinicians include freestyle reining expert Stacy Westfall, Barrel Racing World Champion Kelly Kaminski, Jumping expert Anna Jane White-Mullins, retired mounted police officer and trail riding pro Scot Hansen and many more.

In addition to all the firsthand expert advice, visitors can shop among more than 200 high quality vendors and enjoy a variety of other activities, including the North American All-Star Hoosier Classic 6-horse hitch competition, the daily Parade of Stallions, the model Horse Show and much more. A Kids' Corral will be set-up in the South Pavilion where youngsters can enjoy:

- ★ Pony rides
- ★ Free face painting
- ★ Arts and crafts
- ★ Giant rocking horse
- ★ Lead rope making
- ★ Bicycle sulky races



It all begins with the popular Kick-off Trail Ride Friday, April 3 at 9 a.m. As many as 200 riders, horses and carriages will parade from the Fairgrounds to 42nd Street then to Fall Creek Parkway, 46th Street, Emerson Avenue and Millersville Road before re-entering the Fairgrounds at Gate 6 headed toward the Pepsi Coliseum.

For more information, contact the Indiana Horse Council at (317) 692-7115 or the Indiana State Fairgrounds at (317) 927-7524 or visit www.IndianaHorseCouncil.org.



At a Glance

★ When ★

Kick-off Trail Ride:

Friday, April 3, 9a.m.

Show Hours:

Friday, 10a.m.-8p.m.

Saturday, 9a.m.-8p.m.

Sunday, 9a.m.-5p.m.

★ Where ★

Indiana State Fairgrounds

★ Cost ★

Advance

single-day tickets:

Adult, \$12

Children 7-12, \$4

At the Door

Adult, \$15

Children 7-12, \$6

6 and under: Free

Advance tickets are available at all Marsh Supermarkets, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Golden Royal, AgOne-Greenfield, the Indiana Horse Council office and Indiana Rural King locations.



Explore • Experience • Enjoy



INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS

THE PERFECT VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!

By Andy Klotz

Did you know that the Indiana State Fairgrounds attracts more than 2 million visitors each year? That makes it Central Indiana's top tourist destination! And that means that just about everyone around has visited the fairgrounds for anything from a hockey game to a livestock show.

Did you know that you can hold your event at the Fairgrounds? With a million square feet of space spread out in more than a dozen buildings, and the award-winning Barto's Catering located right on site, the fairgrounds may be the perfect place for your next meeting, reception, or family get-together. Of course, the fairgrounds isn't just ideal for your indoor event, but it can be a beautiful backdrop for your outdoor gathering as well.

Celebration Park offers room for 5,000 people in the Northwest corner of the fairgrounds that has been renovated with scenic landscape improvements, including



Barto's

CATERING & CONCESSIONS

at the Indiana State Fairgrounds - Farm Bureau Building

trees, flowers and a water fountain. Included in the area is a 40' x 60' concrete stage with permanent roof, complete with rigging to handle lights and sound equipment for an outdoor concert. Bleachers, benches and picnic tables are also available for seating along with a small seating wall for guests. Adequate outdoor lighting is also provided to allow for all-night entertainment.

For a more intimate outdoor setting, the Amphitheater behind the Natural Resources building has permanent seating for just over 150 people with areas for additional temporary seating if needed. The large

stage can easily be seen from anywhere in the area, which is well lit, beautifully landscaped and handicap accessible. This is a perfect setting for any outdoor event that includes a major announcement, ceremony or presentation.

For more details or availability, please contact the Fairgrounds Corporate & Event Sales Manager, Jeannie Raymann at (317) 927-7523.



CELEBRATION PARK



DNR AMPHITHEATRE



For more information about rentals and catering, please visit: indianastatefair.com or call Jeannie Raymann, 317.927.7523

The Difference Shows

The Indiana State Fairgrounds plays host to more than 300 unique events each year. If you're looking for something different, you've found your place.

April

3-5 Hoosier Horse Fair

Entire Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri. 10 am-8 pm; Rodeo (Pepsi Coliseum) 8 pm; Sat. 9 am-8 pm; Rodeo (Pepsi Coliseum) 8 pm; Sun. 9 am-5 pm;
Admission: Advance Adult \$12, Youth \$4;
At Gate Adults \$15, Youth \$6;
Children 6 & under Free
Information: Dave Caudill (317) 692-7141
www.indianahorsecouncil.org



11 Naptown Roller Derby

Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavilion
Hours: Doors open 6:30 pm; Bouts at 7:30 pm;
Admission: At Door \$16; Advance \$11
Info: (317) 522-1958
www.naptownrollergirls.com

11 Eastside Reunion

Pioneer Our Land Pavilion
Hours: 6:30 – 12 pm
Admission: \$10; Advance \$15
Info: Eleanore Haynes (317) 545-9332

17-19 Indy Home & Remodeling Show

Toyota Expo Hall
Hours: Fri. Noon-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-9 pm; Sun. 10 am-6 pm
Admission: Adults \$7; Children (6-12) \$3; Children 5 & under Free
Info: Kim Huber (317) 863-0415
www.indyhomeandremodelingshow.com

17-19 Hoosier Antique Expo

West Pavilion
Hours: Fri. 11 am-7 pm; Sat. 11 am-6 pm; Sun. 11 am-5 pm
Admission: \$7
Info: Shawn Hastings Promotions (618) 635-2895
www.HoosierAntiqueShows.com

18 Autism Expo

Farm Bureau Bldg.
Hours: 10 am-3 pm
Admission: Free
Info: Scott Fogo & Alison O'Malley (317) 466-1000 Ext. 2231

18-19 2009 hgregg WFMS Country Music Expo

Toyota Blue Ribbon & Champions Pavilions
Hours: Doors open 8 am; Concert begins 9 am-7 pm Both Days
Admission: 2-Day ticket \$72; Sun only ticket \$36
Info: Lisa Juillerat (317) 558-7227;
www.wfms.com



19 Midwest Reptile Show

Clarian Healthy Lifestyles Pavilion
Hours: Sun. 10 am-4 pm
Admission: \$5; Children 8 & under Free
Brian Hahn (317) 899-1599
www.midwestreptile.com

25 Cheer & Dance Competition

Champions Pavilion
Hours: 10 am-5 pm
Admission: \$5; Children 5 & under Free
Info: (877) 852-4337
www.ccecheer.com

25 Deaf Nation Expo

Toyota Expo Hall
Hours: 9 am-6 pm
Admission: Free
www.deafnation.com

25-26 Indiana Pet Festival

Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavilion.
Hours: Both Days 10 am-6 pm
Admission \$7; Children (5-12) \$4; Under 5 Free
Info: Danielle Beck (317) 782-0724
www.indyfamilypetfair.com



25-26 Indy Baby & Toddler Show

Ag/Hort Bldg.
Hours: Sat. Noon-5 pm; Sun. 11 am-4 pm
Admission: \$5; Grandparents Half-price; Children 5 & under Free
Info: Jenn Kampmeier (317) 517-9920
www.bebeoalunzza.com

25-26 Travel, Adventure & Culinary Experience

Ag/Hort Bldg. & West Pavilion
Hours: Sat. 10 am-5 pm; Sun. 10 am-4 pm
Admission: Free
Info: Julie Vonder Haar (314) 481-8100 Ext. 109;
www.rocketstarshows.com

May

2-3 Indiana State Wrestling

West Pavilion
Hours: 8 am both days
Admission: \$10
Info: Louis Rosbottom (317) 780-1885



13-17 Mecum Car Auction

Toyota Expo Hall, Toyota Blue Ribbon, Champions, South & West Pavilions
Hours Wed. Doors open 9 am, Auction 2 pm
Thurs.-Sun. Doors open 9 am, Auction 10 am
Admission: \$10; Children 12 & under Free
Info: Harold Gerdes (815) 568-8888
www.mecumauction.com

22-23 NARM Show

Pioneer Our Land Pavilion
Hours: Fri. 1:30-7:30 pm;
Sat. 9:30 am-4:30 pm
Admission: Fri. \$10; Sat. \$7; children 7-14 \$3;
Under 7 Free
Info: John Douglas (765) 482-3477
www.narmshow.com

22 Hoosier Hundred

Hoosier Lottery Grandstand & Track
Hours: Pit opens 12 pm; Grandstand opens 3 pm; Practice 5 pm;
Qualifications 6 pm; Race 8 pm
Admission: \$30 day of show; \$25 in advance at www.ticketmaster.com; children \$10
Info: Track Enterprises (217) 764-3200
www.hoosierhundred.com

29-31 Indy 1500 Gun & Knife Show

Toyota Expo Hall
Hours: Fri. 2-9 pm; Sat. 8 am-6 pm;
Sun. 9 am-4 pm
Dan Masters (405) 340-1333
www.indy1500.com

30 Naptown Roller Derby

Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavillion
Hours: Doors open 6:30 pm; Bout at 7:30 pm
Admission: At door \$16; Advance \$11
Info: (317) 522-1958
www.naptownrollergirls.com

June

3-6 Indianapolis Charity Horse Show

Pepsi Coliseum, West Pavilion & South Pavilion Halls B & C
Hours: Morning session 10 am;
Evening session 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Info: Phyllis Harris (317) 336-7569

5 IFT (It's Fashion Time) Presented by DLang Fashions

Farm Bureau Building
Hours: Workshops 10 am-3 pm;
Show 7-10:30 pm
Admission: Regular Advance \$15, VIP Advance \$30,
At Door Regular \$20, VIP \$35
Info: Denisha Ferguson (317) 809-6066
www.iftweek.com

6 IMTA Truck Rodeo

Ag/Hort Bldg. & Midway Lot
Hours: 8 am – 5 pm
Admission: Free
Info: Tisha Eder (317) 630-4682 Ext. 15



16-18 Indiana State Fair Indy International Wine Competition

Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavilion
Hours: Tues.-Weds., 9am-3pm;
Thurs., 10am-Noon
Admission: Free
Info: Jill Blume, Purdue University
(765) 494-1749

18-21 Region 13 All Arabian Horse Show

Pepsi Coliseum, West & South Pavilions & Outside Arena
Hours: Thurs-Sat 8 am-10 pm;
Sun. 8 am-2 pm
Admission: Free
Info: Jan Decker (317) 861-4814

20 Naptown Roller Derby

Toyota Blue Ribbon Pavillion
Hours: Doors open 6:30 pm; Bout at 7:30 pm
Admission: At door \$16; Advance \$11
Info: (317) 522-1958
www.naptownrollergirls.com

21 Midwest Reptile Show

Clarian Healthy Lifestyles Pavilion
Hours: Sun. 10 am-4 pm
Admission: \$5; Children 8 & under Free
Info: Brian Hahn (317) 899-1599
www.midwestreptile.com



22-23 Harness Racing

Hoosier Lottery Grandstand & Race Track
Hours: 11 am both days
Admission: Free
Info: Linda Dever (765) 395-3125

All events are subject to change.
Please refer to our website:
indianastatefair.com
for the most up-to-date information.



Indiana State Fairgrounds
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 5420



Photo and recipe courtesy of bfeedme.com

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

*In honor of our "Year of Tomatoes"
presented by Red Gold, enjoy this
delicious recipe for some fried
green ones!*



Ingredients:

4 large green tomatoes
2 eggs
1/2 cup whole milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup cornmeal
1/2 cup bread crumbs
2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/4 teaspoon oregano
1/4 teaspoon basil
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Vegetable oil for frying

Directions:

Slice your tomatoes to about 1/2 inch in thickness. Discard the ends.
In a medium bowl, whisk eggs and milk together.
Place flour onto a plate, set aside.
Mix cornmeal, bread crumbs & seasonings onto another plate, set aside.
Dip tomatoes into flour to coat; then dip the tomatoes into milk and egg mixture.
Dredge in breadcrumb mixture to completely coat.

In a large skillet- pour veggie oil, enough so that you cover about 1/2 inch of pan. Heat over a medium heat. Place tomatoes into the frying pan. Be sure to not crowd the tomatoes, try not to have them touching. When the tomatoes are browned, flip and fry them on the other side. Pat dry with paper towels.



For more mouth-watering tomato recipes, please visit our website:
indianastatefair.com